



# FACE Fatal Facts



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## Hazards on the Road for Log Truck Drivers

While bringing their harvest to the sawmill, pulp mill, or plywood mill, 11 log truck drivers lost their lives between 1998 and 2002 in Washington State. They left behind eight wives, eight children, and an untold number of grandchildren who will never again see, hear, or hold their loved ones. The monetary cost of those lost lives can't compare to the cost to the families and society.

The following are hazards that these truck drivers may have faced on a daily basis, but didn't live to tell about it. Don't let it happen to you or your drivers.

- **Excessive Speed:** *Speed Kills* – drive at the posted speed limit and take into account weather and road conditions.
- **Tailgating:** Use the 3 second rule – there should be at least a 3 second gap between your vehicle and the one in front of you (this should be increased as the conditions indicate).
- **Driver Inattention:** It is estimated that at least 25% of all vehicle crashes are caused by driver inattention. Keep your eyes on the road and hands on the wheel.
- **Load Stability:** Keep you load within legal height and weight limits. It could cost you your life and that of others.
- **Equipment Failure:** Inspect your vehicle prior to driving – It's the law.
- **Bulkhead Guard:** Don't drive a log truck without a bulkhead guard (cab guard or headache rack) – they're there for a reason.
- **Loading and Unloading:** Don't be caught under a log – use safe and secure methods to load and unload your truck and trailer.
- **Driver Fatigue:** *Stay awake – Stay alive.* Investigators thought that fatigue may have contributed to a quarter of the log truck crashes.
- **Seatbelts:** *Buckle-up.* Seat belts save lives!

Stay tuned, you will soon be receiving a more in-depth fact sheet on log truck hazards and safety recommendations.

These materials were developed by the Washington State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program which is operated by the Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) Program at the WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries. For more information, call 1-888-667-4277 or visit our web site at <http://www.LNI.wa.gov/Safety/Research/FACE>. The FACE Program is partially funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).